

for those who sweep a lot? I beg to ask the question, and say no. First of all, there is a question of minimum wage. I am glad the Democrats have convinced Republicans that those who work on welfare deserve the minimum wage. But you know what she does not get, Mrs. Moore, who has three children? She does not get the opportunity to ask for a brace for her back when she is lifting heavy trash cans, or boots and heavy gloves to protect her feet and hands from broken glass, crack vials, and junkies' needles.

Can she talk to a union organizer? Of course not. Can she get the dignity of a paycheck? Can she translate the sweeping of the shabby lot into a real job, which most Americans think workfare will bring about?

Moore and many others say that as long as she is doing work other people are hired and paid to do, she should not need to wait to be treated like a worker with the kind of benefits and kind of health care that she needs. She says clearly that these city maintenance workers, in particular in New York, they make \$9 an hour. And while she does not, she says some of those workers drink coffee and remind her that she pays for their welfare check, creating a two-tiered, second-class citizenship when these so-called workfare individuals work alongside of the regular workers.

What about Hattie Hargrove, who used to work? She used to work and get benefits, but yet she was laid off by the parks department of New York. She had to go on welfare because she could find no job. And what is she doing in workfare now? Working in the city parks department with no benefits, alongside of those individuals who themselves will be downsized and soon to be unemployed?

We need to fix the welfare-to-work system. First of all, we need to recognize that we need the kind of jobs that will create opportunity for people to move from welfare to work, jobs that they can be hired for. We also have to recognize that we should not disadvantage low-income workers by attritioning them out and then putting in the work force people with no benefits, no ability to organize, no ability to understand and to be able to be protected against sexual harassment and discrimination. We are not giving dignity to these individuals who want to work, who want to be trained.

The other question is, if we truly want welfare-to-work, we need more child care, we need more moneys for transportation. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the way to reform welfare is not to give big corporations the ability to run welfare like some States want to do, giving large corporations like Lockheed and others the ability to work welfare. And, lastly, we need to make sure that we give them the right kind of training, Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure that they get the right kind of jobs. Let us have real training and real welfare-to-work.

QUESTIONABLE DECISION BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STRICKLAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to express a sentiment. The longer I live and the more I am involved in public life, the more convinced I become that the ordinary citizen is at a great disadvantage when they come up against the heavy hand of government or the all-powerful reach of a large corporation.

Case in point: I represent many small wonderful communities in southern Ohio. One of those communities is located on the banks of the beautiful Ohio River. It is a little village called Chesapeake. In Chesapeake, OH, many citizens have chosen to build their homes and to locate on the river because they appreciate the community spirit and the quality of life there.

A few months ago, a large corporation decided they wanted to establish a barge fleeting facility directly across the river from Chesapeake, OH; and, so, they approached the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to do so.

Early on, the Congressman who preceded me in this office asked the Army Corps of Engineers to demand and require an environmental impact study leading to a statement which would determine whether or not the citizens, my constituents in Chesapeake, OH, would be damaged as a result of this fleeting facility.

When I was elected, I also asked the Army Corps of Engineers to have an environmental impact study completed before granting this permit. Nearly 2,000 of my constituents signed a petition to the Army Corps of Engineers. I met with the Army Corps in Huntington, WV. I met with the Assistant Secretary of the Army in charge of civil works in my office here in Washington. I simply asked that my constituents be protected. I said that if this permit was granted, it ought not to be granted until a study was done to make sure that all of the factors that should be considered were considered.

A few days ago, the headlines appeared in a local newspaper which said, "Corps Approves Barge Facility." And although I had been told that all the factors had been considered, I had been told that the aesthetic factors, property values, safety issues, recreational interference, water and air pollution, that all of these factors had been considered, it is my judgment that they were not and that the Army Corps of Engineers disregarded hundreds, even thousands of my constituents in order to support a large corporation.

This troubles me greatly. There is something wrong when ordinary citizens living in the small communities of this country do not get a fair shake. And I think the real attitude of the

Army Corps of Engineers was expressed by a spokesperson who said recently, I quote spokesman Steve Wright of the Huntington office, said,

Officials heard comments about the facility's effect on the environment, air quality and noise factors and the aesthetics of where this barge facility will be built.

And then he said, and I quote,

The people in Chesapeake who have concerns about the aesthetics might want to consider that they are on a super highway of commerce.

This attitude sickens me, Mr. Speaker.

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It shows a callous disregard and insensitivity to American citizens who have a right to believe that their government and the agencies of their government care about them and are willing to protect them. I believe the Army Corps of Engineers needs a careful look. Perhaps their decisionmaking process needs to be reevaluated. Perhaps their funding needs to be reevaluated, because any time a part of this government shows disregard for American citizens, they have gone too far. They may have won this battle, but I believe that the Army Corps of Engineers has damaged itself. It certainly has damaged itself in the eyes of this Member of Congress. I will never feel as positive toward the Army Corps of Engineers or have the kind of respect that I have had in the past for the Army Corps of Engineers until they change their mode of operation and put the interests of ordinary American citizens above the interests of large corporations.

DEBT REDUCTION: WHERE WE WERE, WHERE WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to bring my colleagues and the country as a whole up to speed on where we were, where we are now and where I hope we are going to in this country.

I left a very good job in the private sector. I had no experience in public life, I had no one I knew that was in politics and I left the private sector, I left a very good business, because of this picture and this chart.

What this chart shows is the growing debt facing the United States of America. This shows how much money our Federal Government has borrowed on behalf of the American people. It shows a pretty flat line from 1960 to 1980. The debt did not really grow very much from 1960 to 1980. But in 1980 forward, the debt has just grown right off the chart. I would just point out to the folks that are watching this evening that we are currently about here on